SRI SATHAYANARAYANA SINGH:—Will the Government assure that they will be in a position to reduce the cost of fertilisers to meet part of the agricultural operation cost?

SRI D. B. PAWAR:—Fertilisers are imported from foreign countries and we have to buy it according to the rates quoted by them. It is not in our hands to reduce the price.

SRI K. H. PATIL:—If the Government has really understood the genuine grievances of the Hospet Cane Growers may I know the steps taken by them to see that they are free from grievances and especially this being a place where late Dr. Nagan Gouda spent valuable time of his life, will it be possible for the Government to start a research centre there?

SRI D. B. PAWAR—:This is a problem all over the State. So far as research work is concerned there is already a research station at Gangavathi and Hospet is only about 20 miles and the farmers of Hospet can make use of this research station.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE DEPENDANTS OF EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL

294. SMT. WINNIFRED F. FERNANDES (Coondapur) :—

Will the Minister for Education be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether the dependants of Service Personnel were receiving Military Scholarships under the scheme sanctioned in G. O. No. ED 99 SCT 62 dated 6-9-1963 ;

(*b*) whether the Government has stopped the grant of fresh scholarships from the year 1969 and if so, the reasons for the same ;

(*c*) whether there is a proposal before them to continue the grant of scholarships as before ?

SRI N. M. KOTRABASAIAH SOGI (Deputy Minister for Education) :—

(*a*) Yes. Children and dependants of Service Personnel in the Army, Navy and Air Force were recieving the Educational Concessions under the scheme sanctioned in Government Order No. ED 93 SCL 62 dated 6-9-1963.

(*b*) Yes. The scheme was sanctioned from the year 1963-64 in the context of the emergency created by the Chinese aggression and it has been discontinued from the year 1969-70 as the emergency was lifted from 11-1-1968.

(Sri N: M. KOTRABASAIAH SOGI)

(c) Only the educational concessions already sanctioned to the students under the scheme are continued till they complete the course for which they were sanctioned.

SMT. WINNIFRED F. FERNANDES :—Supplementary to (b) :—Do you mean to say that these service personnel are not in service or do you mean to say that their services are not needed by the Government?

† SRI N. M. KOTRABASAIAH SOGI :—That scheme was a special scheme specially meant for the children and dependents of the service personnel at the time of the emergency. We had instructions from the Government of India to give all encouragement to the children and dependents of service personnel. Soon after the lifting of the emergency we discontinued the concessions and the Central Government has acceded to that.

2-00 P. M.

SMT. WINNIFRED F. FERNANDES :—These young men serving in the Army, Navy and Air Force have sacrified everything for the sake of the nation. Is it not therefore unfair on the part of the Government to cut all these educational concessions to the children and dependents of the service personnel ?

SRI N. M. KOTRABASAIAH SOGI :—We have not cut any benefits. On the other hand, we are continuing the benefits sanctioned during the time of the emergency and the children and dependents of the service personnel are getting the benefits under the normal schemes.

SRI B. P. KADAM :—Is it not a fact that this Government remembers the Army only when there is a war and soon after the war is over they forget army personnel ?

SRI N. M. KOTRABASAIAH SOGI :—It is not like that. It was only a special scheme meant for a special purpose.

EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR BLIND IN THE STATE

303. SRI N.A. CHANNEGOWDA (Pandavapura):—Will the Minister for Social Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) the educational and vocational Training facilities available to the blind in the State;